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WALL MOUNTED VENTED HEATER

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The invention relates to a gas fired vented heater preferably having a relatively thin profile adapted 5 for mounting on or in a wall structure and having a heat radiant display surface with visible decorative refractory defining a rear wall of the combustion chamber.

BACKGROUND OF THE ART

[0002] The prior art of relevance includes gas fired 10 fireplaces and radiant heaters which usually include a gas fired burner housed within a sheet metal enclosure lined with refractory or other heat resistant material to form a combustion chamber that intakes combustion air, exhausts combustion products through a flue and emits radiant heat 15 through a front surface and possibly lateral or top surfaces as well.

[0003] Conventional wood burning fireplaces or stoves have the disadvantages of being a fire hazard and creating dust and ash waste which prior art gas fired appliances do 20 not. However, converting an existing fireplace to receive a gas fired fireplace uses the existing chimney or flue, and is of limited application as a result. Stand alone gas fired fireplace appliances relieve this requirement but remain positioned on a floor surface requiring the 25 protection of the floor surface with a stone, ceramic or metal apron. Gas fired unit heaters are used extensively to heat construction areas, barns, tents or other shelters

usually on a temporary basis. Use of such heaters in homes, restaurants or commercial buildings is a limited application due to the risk of accidental contact, personal injury or fire.

5 [0004] The invention is directed to a novel gas fired vented heater adapted for mounting on or in a wall structure, that has a relatively thin profile to fit inside the wall with a display surface visible to the inside of the room, or directly hung on the wall like a flat screen television or artistic work for example. The positioning of the vented heater at a distance above the floor surface creates a novel visual effect closer to eye level, and in addition eliminates the need to protect the floor surface from heat exposure while placing the hot surfaces away from small children, pets and avoids other risks of accidental contact.

[0005] Further features of the invention will be apparent from review of the disclosure, drawings and description of the invention below.

20 DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

[0006] The invention provides a gas fired vented heater preferably having a relatively thin profile adapted for mounting on or in a wall structure and having a heat radiant display surface with visible decorative refractory defining a rear wall of the combustion chamber.

[0007] Specifically the vented heater has an enclosure adapted for wall mounting with a front display surface, an interior chamber accessible through an access opening with

a removable cover, an air inlet and exhaust outlet. A removable heat insulating liner is disposed within the interior chamber having a display opening aligned with the display surface of the enclosure, a lower air intake and an 5 upper exhaust opening in communication with the exhaust outlet. A fuel burner within the liner has a fuel inlet, an igniter and a flame outlet.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10 [0008] In order that the invention may be readily understood, one embodiment of the invention is illustrated by way of example in the accompanying drawings.

15 [0009] Figure 1 is a front perspective view of the assembled exterior shell with removable enclosure installed therein, having the front trim frame partially broken away to reveal the enclosure supporting brackets.

20 [00010] Figure 2 is a front perspective view of the exterior shell that is mounted in a framed opening in a wall structure, with inner side mounting brackets to support the removable enclosure.

[00011] Figure 3 is a sectional perspective view along line 3-3 of Figure 2 showing the interior structure of the exterior shell.

25 [00012] Figure 4 is a front perspective view of the enclosure with display surface revealing the internal liner of the combustion chamber and the gas fired burner in a lower portion.

[00013] Figure 5 is a sectional perspective view along line 5-5 of Figure 4.

[00014] Figure 6 is a front perspective view of the access and display cover with a central viewing window.

5 [00015] Figure 7 is a front perspective view of the removable heat insulating liner with rear wall including teardrop shaped protrusions, two side walls and a front wall defining a combustion chamber with an upper exhaust opening.

10 [00016] Figure 8 is a sectional perspective view along line 7-7 of Figure 6.

[00017] Figure 9 is a front elevation view of an optional front trim frame in a teardrop shape with rectangular opening to reveal the display surface of the enclosure.

15 [00018] Further details of the invention and its advantages will be apparent from the detailed description included below.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

20 [00019] Figure 1 shows an assembled vented heater with external trim frame 1 partially broken away to reveal the external shell 2 that is mounted within a wall structure and supporting an enclosure 3 on support mounts or brackets 4, 5, 6 within.

25 [00020] The trim frame 1 surrounds a display cover 7 with a central window revealing the combustion chamber 8. The back wall of the heat resistant insulating liner includes a

visually appealing array of forwardly protruding relief portions 9 defining flame directing channels there-between. The flames emitted from the gas fired burner 10 may be in the form of a narrow sheet extending upwardly and flowing 5 through these flame directing channels. The protrusions 9 and liner (best seen in Figs. 7-8) may be of refractory or compressed vermiculite and after contact with the flames and heat of the combustion chamber, may glow emitting visible light in the yellow, orange and red spectrum, 10 resulting in a pleasing pattern of flame and glowing light together with radiant heat through the display cover window surface.

[00021] The enclosure 3 is adapted for wall mounting within an exterior shell 2 for example, as indicated in 15 Figures 1-3. The exterior shell 2 may be of sheet metal, preferably corrosion resistant stainless steel or galvanized steel. The shell 2 provides an air gap between the enclosure 3 and any wall structure such as a wooden stud 11 framed exterior wall as shown in phantom outline in 20 Figures 2-3. In the embodiment shown, the vented heater assembly is installed in an exterior wooden stud wall. However it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that the vented heater can be installed in an internal wall with appropriate air intake and combustion gas flue 25 ducting, or in a masonry wall for example.

[00022] The exterior shell 2 includes openings 12, 13 in side and back walls for roughing in electrical supply and gas supply conduits to the gas fired burner 10 (shown in Figs. 1, 4). A port 14 enables positioning of a hole in 30 the wall structure for a direct vented air inlet about a

gas exhaust duct 15 (see Figure 5). Support mounts 5 extend inwardly to engage mating support mounts 4 extending outwardly from the enclosure 3 as indicated in the assembled view of Figure 1. Further support is provided by 5 four threaded studs 16 that extend through holes 17 in four rearwardly extending mounts 6 of the enclosure (see Fig. 4). The exterior shell 2 is secured to the wooden studs 11 by lateral holes 18 in the side walls for screws. The four tabs 19 provide a laterally extending guide surface to 10 align the shell 2 at the appropriate depth into the wall, and as well include forwardly extending clips upon which the rear inside surface of the trim frame 1 can be mounted 15 (see Fig. 1 for example).

[00023] The components of the enclosure 3 are best seen 15 in Figures 4-5. The enclosure 3 itself has a front display surface 20, with an interior chamber accessible through a front access opening with a removable display cover 7 with a central window 21, an air inlet through port 14 and exhaust outlet duct 15. The removable heat insulating 20 liner 22 (best seen in Figures 7-8) is housed within the interior chamber of the enclosure and has a front display opening aligned with the display surface of the enclosure 3. The liner 22 is upwardly spaced from the bottom of the enclosure to define a lower air intake into the liner 25 combustion chamber and an upper exhaust opening 23 in communication with the exhaust outlet duct 15. The fuel burner 10 within the liner 22 has a fuel inlet conduit fed through openings 12 or 13, an integral igniter (not shown) and a flame outlet slit in the top surface to emit a sheet 30 of flame.

[00024] To adapt the enclosure for flat wall mounting on or in a wall structure, the enclosure 3 may have a height "H", a width "W" and a depth "D", the depth D being less than 25% and optionally 15% of one of the width W or the 5 height H. The depth D may be as little as 3-6 inches or less for example.

[00025] As seen in Figure 5, the liner 22 is disposed forwardly of a rear wall 24 of the enclosure 3 defining an air flow plenum 25 between the air inlet port 14 of the 10 enclosure 3 and the lower air intake of the liner 22. The liner 22 may be slidably removable from the enclosure 3 via the front access opening by removing the display cover 7. As a result, a user can change the appearance of the liner 22 readily.

15 [00026] As seen in Figures 7-8, the liner 22 has a back wall 26, a top wall 27 and side walls 28 defining a forward facing combustion chamber. The liner 22 may also have a front exhaust gas containment wall 29 above the display opening with a curved inner surface 30 of the top wall 27 20 to direct the flow of exhaust gases to the exhaust opening 23.

[00027] To add visual appeal and enhance the heat radiating capacity of the liner 22 the back wall 26 of the liner includes one or more forwardly protruding relief 25 portions 9 defining flame directing channels there-between.

[00028] Although the above description relates to a specific preferred embodiment as presently contemplated by the inventor, it will be understood that the invention in

its broad aspect includes mechanical and functional equivalents of the elements described herein.